



Operational Context

A small, landlocked country with a population of 13.2 million people growing at 2.3 percent annually, Rwanda is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa. In the past three decades, the Government of Rwanda has recorded significant achievements in poverty reduction, gender equality, environmental sustainability, education, and public health, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, 38.2 percent of the population continues to live below the poverty line and almost one fifth is food insecure. Levels of stunting among young children remain very high (33 percent according to the 2019-2020 Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey). Agriculture is the backbone of the economy, with 69 percent of households engaged in crop production or animal husbandry. Irregular rainfall, drought, floods, and the limited amount of land that is suitable for agriculture, alongside pests and diseases, continue to pose risks to food security.

Moreover, according to UNHCR data, as of 31 October 2024, Rwanda hosted 134,588 refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi. Many refugees have been in the country for decades and rely almost completely on WFP food assistance. The “forgotten crises” in neighbouring countries, where protracted volatility is exacerbated by political instability, may lead to the further arrival of refugees in the future.



Population: **13.2 million**

2022 Human Development Index: 161 out of 193

Income Level: **Lower**

Chronic malnutrition: **33 percent** of children between **6-59 months**

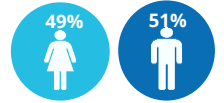
In Numbers

161,665 people reached in October 2024

USD 706,966 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

USD 10.7 million six months (Nov. 2024 – April 2025) net funding requirements, representing 41 percent of total annual requirements

302.446 MT of food distributed



Strategic Updates

- WFP, along with FAO and IFAD, supported MINAGRI to co-host Food Systems Dialogues to launch an implementation plan for the new Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation (PSTA5), which aims to adopt a food systems approach to livelihoods, healthy diets, and inclusive growth.
- WFP joined MINAGRI, FAO, and partners in Nyamasheke District on 25 October to celebrate World Food Day under the theme "Right to Food for a Better Life and Future." The event featured a nutrition-focused exhibition, and fruit tree planting, as part of a month-long campaign to raise awareness of healthy and nutritious diets.
- WFP, FAO, IFAD, and UN Women, in collaboration with district officials and participants from the Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE), celebrated the International Day of Rural Women in Gisagara District. This event highlighted the participants' achievements in gender equality, economic empowerment, and improved livelihoods, and they were provided with labour-saving startups to enhance their agricultural productivity and economic resilience.
- WFP partnered with the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), to participate in the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) celebration in Rubavu District. This event featured Umuganda, a monthly community service initiative, which aimed at mobilizing residents and raising awareness about the critical importance of DRR.
- On 27 September 2024, the Ministry of Health confirmed an outbreak of the Marburg virus disease. By October, there were 66 confirmed cases, 15 deaths reported, and 49 recoveries. WFP is monitoring the situation and collaborating with WHO to provide logistic support to the Government for the transport and delivery of essential medical supplies.

Operational Updates

Refugee operations

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 127,380 people including refugees, asylum seekers, host community children attending the same schools as refugee children, and Rwandan returnees. Further, WFP disbursed USD 9,168 as a school feeding contribution to schools that host refugees and distributed 201 metric tons (MT) of food commodities to asylum seekers and households enrolled in nutrition programmes. Moreover, around 2,500 individuals benefitted from Social and Behaviour Change Communication for Nutrition (SBCC-N) interventions.
- Since November 2022, insecurity in eastern DRC has led to the displacement of an increasing number of individuals. By the end of October 2024, 15,987 asylum seekers from the DRC had sought refuge in Rwanda. In addition, around 600 new asylum seekers from Sudan and Burundi have also arrived in Mahama since June 2024.

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Photo caption: Representatives from WFP, FAO, IFAD, UN Women, and district officials joined JP RWEE project participants in Gisagara District to celebrate International Rural Women's Day. Photo: WFP/Aristide Gatera

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
304.3m	192.5m	10.7 m

SDG target 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Refugees, returnees and other crisis affected population in Rwanda have access to adequate and nutritious food at all times.

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

Provide food and nutrition assistance and basic livelihood support to refugees and returnees.

Provide food or cash, nutrition support and other assistance to local Rwandan populations in need of assistance, including through provision of WFP services to the Government of Rwanda and humanitarian agencies.

SDG target 2: Access to Food

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable populations in food-insecure communities/areas have improved access to adequate and nutritious food all year.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

Support the design, implementation, and scale up of national food security and nutrition sensitive social protection programmes.

SDG target 3: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Children under 5, adolescents, and pregnant, nursing women/girls in Rwanda have improved access to nutritious foods and services to meet their nutritional needs all year.

Focus area: *Root Causes*

Activities:

Provide capacity strengthening support to national programmes that improve the nutrition status of targeted populations.

SDG target 4: Smallholder Productivity & Incomes

Strategic Outcome 4: Smallholder farmers, especially women, have increased marketable surplus and can safely access agricultural markets through efficient supply chains by 2030.

Focus area: *Root causes*

Activities:

Provide support, education, and capacity strengthening services for smallholder farmers and value chain actors.

SDG target 5: Global partnerships

Strategic Outcome 5: The Government of Rwanda and the humanitarian community is provided with adequate, timely, cost-efficient, and agile supply chain services and expertise necessary to effectively respond to emergency crisis.

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

Deliver supply chain services and expertise to enable all partners to provide assistance to affected populations.

Climate Resilience

- WFP trained 120 cooperative leaders and lead farmers from five districts to promote the adoption of Conservation Agriculture and improve community resilience to climate change and environmental degradation.

Disaster Risk Management

- WFP collaborated with MINEMA to carry out a disaster hotspot assessment in 12 districts in the Eastern and Southern Provinces. A detailed report and terms of reference were developed for updating the National Risk Atlas. These efforts will help strengthen disaster risk management and support informed decision-making.

Nutrition

- From 28 October, WFP is conducting a 3-week training for 1,440 school stakeholders in Ngororero District. This includes school cooks, storekeepers, and members of school feeding and procurement committees. The training will focus on food safety and quality standards, and nutrition. This initiative builds on the recent training of 59 trainers-of-trainers (ToTs), aimed at enhancing the quality and nutritional standards of school meals.

School Feeding

- WFP supported the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) as the Chair of the Eastern Africa Regional School Meals Coalition (SMC) network to hold its first virtual Community of Practice meeting following the network launch in Kigali last year. The virtual meeting provided an opportunity for technical school meal focal points from seven of the nine-member countries to share updates, lessons learned, best practices and challenges in their respective country contexts.
- The Ministry of Education validated the National School Feeding Financing Strategy developed jointly with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and WFP. The strategy provides innovative solutions for closing the funding gap for Rwanda's National School Feeding Programme in the next 10 years to become fully sustainable.
- WFP provided daily nutritious meals to over 30,000 students in 32 schools across three supported districts (Kayanza, Burera, and Gasabo) in collaboration with MINEDUC and district authorities.

Food Systems

- WFP and the USAID-funded Hinga Wunguke project conducted comprehensive training sessions focused on post-harvest handling and market linkages. This aimed to build smallholder farmers' capacity to manage agricultural productivity and increase their incomes through access profitable markets.

Monitoring

- The average cost of the monthly food basket increased by 11 percent in October. The increase is associated with a price increase ranging between 0.4 and 16 percent in all food basket commodities, most notably a 9 and 16 percent average increase in dry beans and maize grain prices, respectively.

Challenges

- WFP requires USD 10.7 million to sustain its operations for the next six months (November 2024 – April 2025), representing 41 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Ninety-seven percent of our requirement is for Strategic Outcome 1, which covers cash assistance to targeted refugees in Rwanda based on their vulnerability status, as well as to support new asylum seekers and Rwandan returnees.

Donors: Canada, EU (ECHO and INTPA), Finland, France, Gates Foundation, Germany (BMZ and GFFO), Ireland, JAWFP, Republic of Korea, Mastercard Foundation, New Zealand, Norway, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Sweden, Switzerland, UN Common Funds and Agencies, USA (USAID and USDA).